NOTES

BLYXA AUBERTII (HYDROCHARITACEAE) IN LOUISIANA: NEW TO NORTH AMERICA.—The aquatic angiosperm flora of Louisiana is noteworthy for the presence of *Ottelia alismoides* and *Hydranthelium egense* (*Bacopa egensis*), naturalized species unknown elsewhere in North America. To these may now be added *Blyxa aubertii* Rich., not previously reported from North America. *Blyxa*, a genus of about ten species of submerged hydrophytes, is native to the Old World tropics. According to Den Hartog (Flora Malesiana, Ser. I, Vol. 5(4): 391. 1957), *B. aubertii* ranges from "Madagascar and India, northwards to Korea and Japan, eastwards via Malaysia to New Guinea and N. Australia." It was first collected by us in Louisiana on 26 September 1968 from Lake Chicot in Chicot State Park, Evangeline Parish, where it was common locally near the boat dock. Growing with *Limnophila indica*, another introduced aquatic (recently reported also in Texas and Florida), it was rooted in clay in rather turbid water to about 2 feet deep. A visit to Lake Chicot on 12 October 1968, to collect additional material, was unrewarding inasmuch as the lake had been drained (for "weed control") and the *Blyxa* was stranded high and dry. Desiccated plants were seen at several localities on the shore. No plants were still submerged, which prompted us to throw a number of fruits into the water to thwart the "control" effort. On 17 October 1968, at Lacassine Migratory Waterfowl Refuge (about 65 miles southwest of Lake Chicot) in Cameron Parish, we found *B. aubertii* again. While, in a motor boat, we were looking for *Ottelia* in "The Pool" (an artificial impoundment of ca. 16,000 acres), a grab at some "different looking" plant material in the water yielded a handful of *Blyxa* fruiting peduncles. By the time we realized what we had, we were a considerable distance from the site; search in the general area failed to yield additional *Blyxa*. Two days later, near The Pool, we found *Blyxa* rooted in soft clay in the water in a borrow pit. Plants of all sizes were noted.

Blyxa aubertii, apparently annual with us, is easily recognized vegetatively. Its leaves, ranging in length (in our specimens) from 8 to 43 cm and in width from 0.3 to 0.8 cm, have long attenuate tips, finely and minutely serrulate margins (about 25-30 teeth per cm), and prominent midribs. We know of no other ribbon-leaved aquatic in the United States that shares these characteristics. The peduncles, up to 45 cm long, are frequently somewhat bent just below the spathe. The slightly compressed spathes, 3.5 to 6.6 cm long, are six-ribbed. The long-cylindrical fruits, usually overtopped by the persistent spathes, are from 3.5 to 4.6 cm long and are about 0.2 cm wide. A rostrum, to 8 cm long and 0.1 cm wide, remains as a beak on each fruit. The three sepals are 6.5 to 7.0 mm long; the three petals, 10 mm long and 0.5 mm wide (in all the flowers we saw, the petals were crumpled and included); the three stamens, 4.8 mm long, with the anthers 1.8 mm. The ellipsoid seeds, 1.6 to 1.8 mm long and 0.9 mm wide, have from eight to eleven irregular, tuberculate, longitudinal ridges. Although Den Hartog

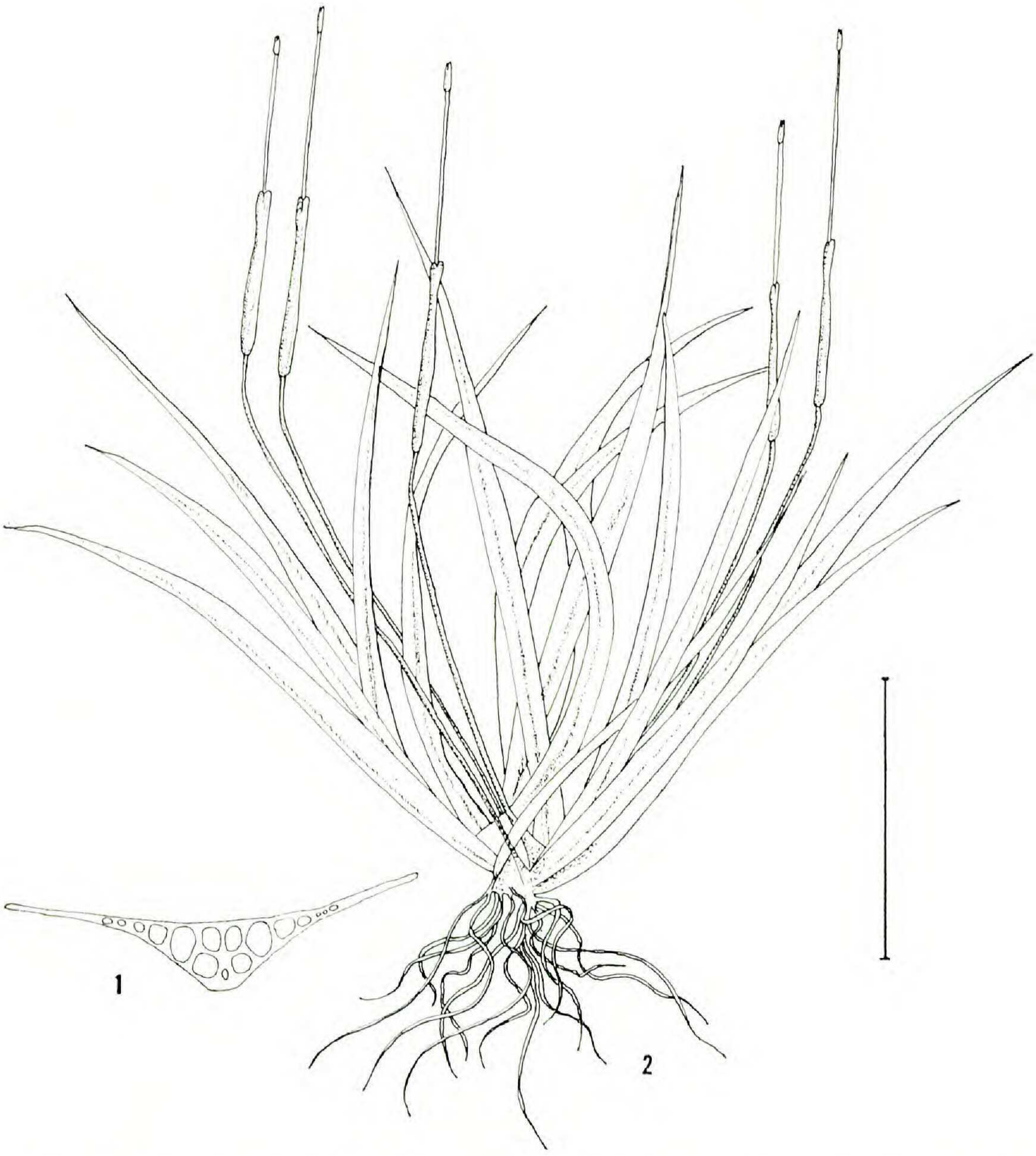

Fig. 1. Illustration of *Blyxa aubertii* showing (1) a cross section of a leaf blade one-third up from the base, (2) the entire plant. The vertical line represents 6 cm.

states that *Blyxa* seeds have "3 8 longitudinal rows" of tubercles and that those of *B. aubertii* have eight ribs, his illustrations of *B. aubertii* seeds seem to show more than eight.

Voucher specimens, bearing our field numbers 30302 and 30510, have been deposited in the following herbaria: DUKE, FSU, GH, LAF, and MICH.—*John W. Thieret, Robert R. Haynes, and David H. Dike, University of Southwestern Louisiana, Lafayette 70501.*